

AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

COLONIAL JOURNAL.

VOL. II.]

MAY, 1826.

[NO. III.]

REVIEW OF THE

Memoirs of the Life of Granville Sharp.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40.)

“DURING the whole course of the important transactions which have been hitherto related,” says Mr. Hoare, “Mr. Sharp had continued in the humble employment of a clerk in ordinary, in the minuting branch of the ordnance office.” The duties of this station appear to have been punctually and faithfully performed, until the death of the second clerk in the year 1774, when he succeeded to the place of assistant to the secretary, Mr. Boddington, and received additional compensation.

But the crisis had now arrived, when his integrity was to be more strikingly exhibited, and his sacred regard to principle, to show itself superior to all considerations of personal interest.

On this subject, however, Mr. Sharp may most properly speak for himself :

“July 28, 1775.

“An account in the Gazette of the battle at Charlestown, near Boston ; and letters with large demands of ordnance stores, being received, which were ordered to be got with all expedition, I thought it right to declare my objections to the being in any way concerned in that unnatural business, and was advised by Mr. Boddington, to ask leave of absence for two months, as the Board would take it more kindly than an abrupt resignation.

VOL. II.

"I wrote that day to sir Charles Cocks, clerk of the ordnance, and received a very polite answer. Sir Jeffrey Amhurst and Mr. Langlois, were made acquainted with my objections by Mr. Boddington, and also with the advice he had given me; and they approved of the manner of absenting myself."

While retired from the duties of his office, Mr. Sharp visited his relations in the North, and employed his time in literary pursuits. Near the conclusion of the term allowed for his absence, he addressed a letter to Mr. Boddington, declaring, "that whilst a bloody war was carried on, unjustly as he conceived, against his fellow subjects, he could not return to his ordnance duty; and yet expressing his reluctance to resign his place, which had now become his only profession and livelihood. He therefore solicited a further indulgence, requesting that his whole salary might be divided amongst the gentlemen, whose duties might become more arduous, in consequence of his absence.

In compliance, however, with the advice of Mr. Boddington, his request was made without conditions; although in a private letter to this gentleman, he entreats him to dispose of his whole salary, to obtain necessary assistance, "that no additional expense might be brought on the office on his account." A further leave of absence was subsequently granted; but when the hostilities with America had advanced beyond the hope of a speedy termination, he resigned his office.

This act was regarded by many as excessively imprudent. Mr. Sharp's charities had exhausted his resources; and to use the language of Mr. Hoare, "this protector of the helpless, stood himself without the means of sustenance." His affectionate brothers, however, (now prosperous,) welcomed him at once, into the bosoms of their families, and considered him rather a treasure than a burthen. "They revered that obedience to conscience, which had deprived him of his competency, and they strove to compensate his loss by every act of respect and kindness."

We know not how to deny ourselves the pleasure of inserting the following letter, which delicately and beautifully expresses the feelings of the brothers, on this occasion, and admirably illustrates their own excellence, as well as the virtues of him to whom it is addressed:

"TO MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

"LONDON, October 5, 1775.

"DEAR BROTHER GRANVILLE,

"Many thanks for your very affectionate letter, of the 26th of last month. We very much approve, here, of your asking a farther leave of absence. It will

give you a little leisure, which you so very much want; and it will let you have a little enjoyment of the friends you see so seldom; and, above all, it may give some chance for a turn in public affairs: and of this I do not at all despair; but if it should be otherwise, and you should think it proper to give up your employment, I will now speak for my brother William as well as myself: we are both ready and willing, and, God be thanked, at present *able* to take care that the loss shall be none to you; and all that we have to ask in return is, that you would continue to live amongst us as you have hitherto done, without imagining that you will, in such a situation, be burthensome to us, and also without supposing, that it will then be your duty to seek employment in some other way of life; for if we have the needful amongst us, it matters not to whom it belongs—the happiness of being together is worth the expense, if it answered no farther purpose. But I will go farther; I have no doubt but the mutual assistance we are of to each other, and the consequence we acquire by it, is more than adequate to any other employment we might reasonably hope could be obtained; and in case of the death of either party, much more would be lost to the family by your absence, than perhaps might be produced by other means.

These are only a few reasons, drawn up in haste, as they appear to me to enforce what I have said above: but I trust you will have no occasion for it; it is not every part of office duty you object to—you will, of course, refuse particular parts. It may pass on so till times come round: but if not, I shall not be at all uneasy at the resignation, if what is now said shall be agreeable to yourself.

Your sincerely affectionate brother,

JAMES SHARP."

"DEAR GRANVILLE,

"I most heartily approve of what my brother has written above; and I hope you will think of the matter as we do.

Much love as due, from

Your affectionate brother,

WILLIAM SHARP."

And here may we be permitted to remark, that the kind and generous affections which constitute the highest domestic felicity, generally indicate the existence of those magnanimous dispositions which prompt to the noblest public exertions. They may indeed be vigorous and active in minds too diffident or modest to seek for fame; but they seldom live in hearts which feel no deep sympathy for human nature. Equally true is it, perhaps, that he who is most devoted to his country and most concerned for the interests of his species, will be found endowed with the tenderest social affections; most brightly will he exhibit the virtues, and faithfully discharge the duties of private life.

Mr. Sharp accepted the invitation of his brothers, and for many years shared their table and their purse. His literary studies were now renewed with an ardour and diligence, which have seldom, if ever, been surpassed. While occupied in the ordnance department, he was accustomed to pursue at night, and during the earliest hours of the day, those investigations which accomplished, as we have seen, a very important change in the opinions of the first judicial tribunal in the kingdom. But although he still continued his habits of severe study, he would not permit himself to be abstracted from social and domestic enjoyments.

It is unnecessary to do more than enumerate the several productions of Mr. Sharp's pen, while employed in the ordnance office, to secure us from any charge of misrepresentation, concerning his mental powers, or the attention and perseverance with which their operations were conducted. In 1765, he published a tract in opposition to Dr. Kennicott's statement of supposed corruptions, in the Hebrew text of Ezra and Nehemiah. This was a bold attempt considering the distinguished reputation of Dr. Kennicott as a scholar, and the peculiar disadvantages under which Mr. Sharp had laboured in his acquisition of biblical knowledge. A clergyman, after reading the work, however, humorously "compared him to David attacking and wounding Goliath." "The singularity of the subject," says Mr. Hoare, "the confidence with which his enterprise was supported, and the success with which it was finally attended, form one of the most remarkable incidents in literary annals."

In this controversy, Mr. Sharp appears to have been governed solely by a concern for the reputation of the Scriptures. He ventured to accuse his antagonist of having "drawn his instances of corruption of the text from the *English version only*, without having given himself the trouble of reading the *original*:" and this "charge he supported with great learning and keenness of criticism." Dr. Kennicott had proposed publishing a corrected edition of the Hebrew scriptures, to which Mr. Sharp strongly objected, and expressed the hope that the text would be copied from the best *existing edition*, with the various readings inserted in the margin. This plan was finally adopted.

His next production appeared in 1767, and was entitled "an account of measures adopted in 1711, 1712, and 1713, for introducing the English liturgy into the kingdom of Prussia, and into

the electorate of Hanover." The immediate cause of this publication, was his desire to extend the use of the forms of the English church excited, particularly, by information that it was intended to introduce them into Prussia. A manuscript, containing an account of measures which had been previously adopted for the same purpose, belonged to his family; and he now published its contents in the French language. This work contained a correspondence between the venerable Archbishop Sharp, and the learned and pious Prussian divine, Dr. Jablonski.

His third publication was, "A short introduction to vocal music," which received the approbation of those best capable to give judgment concerning it.

His fourth work was "On the pronunciation of the English tongue," and was published both in English and in French.

In 1768, he printed a tract, entitled, "Remarks on several important prophecies."

Several other publications might be mentioned, among which were a tract "On the due distinction between murder and manslaughter," another "On duelling," and a third, entitled, "A declaration of the people's natural rights to a share in the Legislature."

This declaration, it is stated in Mr. Sharp's manuscript, was re-printed even in the same year, 1774, in almost every part of America, at the very time that the British government had most fatally determined to enforce its unconstitutional and unjust pretensions, and thereby had incurred an extraordinary national punishment; even the forfeiture of all the colonies which they had intended to oppress, together with an immense loss of lives, and a most ruinous expense. "Such, (he continues) are the baneful effects of yielding to the false political suggestions of the prince of this world and his spiritual agents. The providential effect of the wicked notions, which, through a fatal delusion, have prevailed in the cabinets of princes, is completely contrary to their political expectations. For they conceive that there is (what they call) an *imperial necessity* or a *political expediency* for adopting illegal and unjust measures. But they are not aware that such measures always produce the very mischiefs which they hoped to prevent by them, and draw down the Divine vengeance, declared in the 64th psalm: "They imagine wickedness, and practice it; but God shall suddenly shoot at them with a swift arrow; yea, their own

tongues shall make them fall; and all men that see it shall say, this hath God done; for they shall perceive that it is his work!"*

Two or three other tracts, relating to the controversy with the colonies, were published by Mr. Sharp; and in the same year, 1776, "The law of Retribution," "The just limitation of slavery in the laws of God, with a plan for the gradual abolition of slavery in the colonies;" "The law of passive obedience;" and "The law of liberty."

We have alluded to Mr. Sharp's fondness for society and innocent recreation. "A barge on the Thames, long known to the circle of his friends for its festive hospitality, and particularly as a scene of musical delight, begins to occupy a place in his (M. S.) notes, from the August of 1775, immediately on his obtaining his first leave of absence from the ordnance board. The history

* On the occasion of this work, he received the following lines from ——— Payne, one of the directors of the Bank of England :

TO MR. GRANVILLE SHARP,

On reading his late instructive and excellent book, entitled, A declaration of the people's natural right to a share in the Legislature, as the fundamental principle of the British Constitution of State.

Wise, learned, meek, with reverential love
Of God's just laws, and love of man informed,
O may thy labours by the midnight lamp,
Pour day's effulgence on thy country's darkness :
Teach lawyers rectitude ; teach statesmen truth ;
Teach tyrants justice ; and the village hind,
Lord of his little freehold, teach to prize
His personal importance, and to deem
His own rights sacred as the rights of monarchs.

But should the voice of warning not be heard ;
Should this devoted nation, left of God,
Worship hell's blackest daemon—lawless power,
And driven by pride and wrath, precipitate
Through streams of kindred blood, her hasty strides
To the dark gulph of dissolution,
O then, may thy just spirit, self-approved
In its past efforts, with an eye of faith,
Awful, yet calm, behold the signal vengeance,
And on the spotless wing of liberty,
Rise uncorrupted to its native Heaven.

On these verses is written in red ink—*Mem.* "A seasonable warning to G. S. not of what he is, but of what he ought to be."

even of his amusements cannot be told, without adding to the dignity of his character." It appears to have been the resort of individuals of great professional eminence and skill, as well as of distinguished rank. It was occasionally visited by foreign ministers and by the sovereign of England. "Such was the deference (observes Mr. Hoare) shown to the integrity of Granville, even while he was strenuously contending against the measures of the cabinet, on the momentous subject of our American contest."

His love of music, however, was more particularly remarkable. He was acquainted with its theory, but especially fond of it as practically adapted to the purposes of devotion. He had a good bass voice, and played on a variety of instruments.* Sunday evening concerts were alternately held at the houses of his brothers James and William, which consisted wholly of performances of sacred music, in "which voices and instruments were united to sound the praises of the Supreme Being." The most eminent performers frequently attended on these occasions.

The conduct of Mr. Sharp towards a native of one of the South Sea Islands, who had been brought into England, shows the powerful sympathy which he felt for every object which offered any claims to his charitable exertions. Soon after the arrival of Omai (for such was the stranger's name) in 1775, Mr. Sharp sought an introduction, and expressed an earnest desire to impart to him a knowledge of the Scriptures. He voluntarily became his instructor; and in fifteen lessons (all which he had the opportunity of giving) communicated to him the first rudiments of the English language. He perceived the importance of "diffusing Christian light over a new race of men," and felt solemnly bound to improve every means which afforded the least hope of contributing to so desirable and joyful a result. During his interviews with Omai, he endeavoured to explain to him the Divine commandments, and to impress his heart with the infinite importance of a virtuous life. We concur with Mr. Hoare in the opinion, that "Granville Sharp might, with as much truth probably as any man that ever lived, have said, in the words of Terence's *Chremes*:

Homo sum: humani nihil a me alienum puto.

(To be continued.)

* His performance on the double flute, is thus noticed by Mr. Shield: "This mode of performance was new in England. A pupil of Mr. Shield (Foster) afterwards adopted the instrument, and performed on it with great applause, in an overture composed by Mr. Shield for the opera of the "Noble Peasant."

Latest from Liberia.

MONROVIA, COLONY OF LIBERIA, DEC. 31st, 1825.

To the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society.

GENTLEMEN:—A direct conveyance by the brig "Union" of Portland, having, after a lapse of more than four months from the transient visit and sailing of the "Cyane," at length offered, in coincidence with the close of the year; I avail myself of the occasion to lay before the Board of Managers as circumstantial an exposition of the past and actual state of the Colony, as the ends of accurate information require. I have already heard of the safe arrival in the United States, of the ship just named—but have never ceased to regret, that the commander's views of duty, at the moment of her touching at the cape, entirely precluded the possibility of making by her, any detailed communications whatever.

Events of no surprising prominence of character, but still of the greatest importance to the welfare of the Colony, have occurred during the last year; and in them, problems of general interest to the people—especially the coloured population of the United States, have, in my opinion, been satisfactorily, and conclusively solved: and, with emotions of unutterable gratitude to Heaven, I am happy to inform the Board, that the year under review, has proved a period of unprecedented, and almost unmingled prosperity to the Colony.

The scale of our operations is, indeed, exceedingly limited: but it admits a great variety of interests, all of which have been steadily progressive. The health of the settlement has been, for several months, restored, and scarcely known the ordinary interruptions of the slightest diseases. Every enterprise of our negotiations and of our arms abroad, has been crowned with entire success. Internal improvements have been carried to a length fully equal to our means. The necessities and comforts of life are accumulating in an abundance not known before. New resources are disclosing around us. An immense accession of influence and of territory has been secured; and the foundations of moral and civil liberty, and of a mild and efficient system of government and laws, are beginning to be fortified by the affections and answerable habits of a free, obedient, and improving people.

The honorable Board of Managers—the numerous patrons whom motives of benevolence and patriotism have rallied around the cause of colonization—and your humble agents in this country, have been compelled to drink deep, and often, of the cup of disappointment; and have perhaps yielded to a dejection to which human weakness, under so many forms of discouragement, is sometimes *obliged* to give way. But, as far as the actual state and prospects of your establishment in this country, can effect the great interest in which we labour, the dispensations of Providence are now reversed, and its language authorizes and inspires the liveliest sentiments of our gratitude and joy.

Those only upon whose hearts the destinies of this infant Colony have, for a course of years, maintained a strong hold, can enlist their sympathies in any answerable degree, with those of its founders and active friends. Such only can duly appreciate the value of that scale of success to which the age, the means, and the population of the settlement, of necessity confine it. The Colony is of less than 4 years standing:—it is situated in a corner of the habitable globe, visited by less than 12 American ships annually—the contiguous countries as well as the territory of the Colony itself, are covered with immense forests, and scantily peopled with impoverished savage tribes, whose wealth, industry and arts, extend only to the wants of a mere animal existence. The settlers have never much exceeded three hundred; and for the two first years, consisted of less than *one* hundred. The aid received from the United States has been, relative to its object, small; and of the aid actually intended, a large part has, from imperfect experience, been injudiciously applied. The settlement, in its earlier stages, suffered severely from war, from sickness, from the engrossing character of the slave-trade; from unworthy members, from a crude and imperfect mode of government, and from irregular supplies. Such, it is well known to all who have pursued this rising interest from the beginning, are the materials of a large portion of its history. And whatever has influenced so materially, its former growth, is obliged, to a certain extent, to be taken as the measure of its actual condition.

The interests of the settlement have become so diversified, as to admit of a complete survey only by reducing the information relating to each, under its appropriate head.

The disastrous influence of the climate of the country in for-

mer years, naturally suggests as first in interest, the inquiry respecting

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

It is my privilege to report to the Board the grateful fact, that, since the month of August last, the most perfect health has been enjoyed by the settlers; excepting a few cases of chronic decline, casualties, and a species of troublesome, but not dangerous, scorbutic affections, by which nearly all the emigrants to this country, are in their turn, affected. This evil commonly assails the constitution in the first year. One death only has ever occurred from this cause among the settlers; and the patient is seldom or never, while suffering from these disorders, subject to any other.

Since my letter of the 17th June, three adults, all of whom were, at that date, in a lingering decline, have been removed from our number, by death; with two small children. Of these, three were of the Hunter's company.

The question of the salubrity of Africa to the descendants of Africans, seems thus to be determined by the experiment.

The children and young persons above three years in the country, appear to be in every respect, as healthy, muscular and vigorous, as the natives of the coast. Adults the same length of time in Africa, acquire for the climate of the country, a strong predilection over every other. They have as much health, and as large a share of animation, as they ever possessed in America.

THE CIVIL STATE OF THE COLONY,

Or the health of the social body, is a subject, which, from its intrinsic importance, and on account of the former agitations which it has suffered, merits a particular notice.

The system of government drawn up and adopted in August, 1824, and of which the qualified approbation of the board was communicated the January following, with "permission to continue it as an experiment of the Agent," has, to the present time, undergone no material alteration. Some of the details have been a little extended, others either retrenched, or suffered to fall into disuse. But the system has, I flatter myself, proved itself, in its principles, entirely sufficient for the civil government of the Colony; and still as liberal and popular as the republican prepossessions of the Board would prescribe. The apparent complexity of its structure, of the effects of which, in so young a settlement, the Managers very naturally express some fears, in a great measure

disappears, in its practical operation. Small communities soon come to be agitated by the same diversity of interest,—to require the same variety of civil institutions, and to exact the same methods of securing, exercising, and ascertaining their rights, as larger societies. And a government, however limited as to the number of its subjects, must either assume the austerity of a despotic system, or become somewhat diffuse in its details.

I am certainly justified in the assertion that very few even of the most indolent minds amongst us, have not clear and precise ideas of our system. The last annual election of colonial officers in August, was distinguished by a dispassionate intelligence of selection, which afforded the best pledge of the kind yet given, of the increasing competency of the people for self-government. The election resulted in the appointment of such men to the offices of the colony, as not only possess the essential qualifications for a proper discharge of their functions, but who were known to be entirely disposed to a cordial co-operation with their Agent.—The civil prerogatives and government of the colony, and the body of laws by which they are respectively secured and administered, are the pride of all. Former experience has convinced them of the absurdity of straining a point of personal independence to such lengths as to weaken the force of the laws, or impede the energetic movements of the executive arm.—The first appearance of such turbulent examples (and every expedition from the United States furnishes several) is now seen to excite disgust, and awaken a general sentiment of derision and opposition; which seldom fails more effectually to instruct and cure the ignorance and perversity against which it is directed, than the coercive power of law itself.

The litigious practices of the first and second years of the Colony, have been so far reformed by the accession of more friendly feelings, and correcter ideas of moral justice, amongst the colonists, as, for some months past, to have left the courts of justice little else to do, but to verify transfers of property, and announce, in cases of difficulty, the just construction of the laws.

In the punishment of offences, the most lenient maxims of modern jurisprudence have been observed, by way of experiment on human nature, in that particular modification of it exhibited by the population of this Colony. The result has been, *so far*, favourable to the policy pursued. The passion to which corporeal

and other ignominious punishments address their arguments, is certainly one of the least ingenuous of the human constitution. The necessity of depending for the safety of society on an appeal to these principles, is ever to be viewed either as the last resort of a tyrannical government, or the last means of prolonging the social existence of a corrupt and degraded people. I am happy in the persuasion I have, that I hold the balance of the laws in the midst of a people with whom the first perceptible inclination of the sacred scale, determines authoritatively, their sentiments and their conduct. There are individual exceptions; but I can affirm with confidence, that, making the necessary allowances on account of a neglected education, and a situation in early life unfavourable to the developement of the noblest sentiments of the human mind, the people of the Colony can detect as readily, and reprobate as cordially, any deviations from the line of moral integrity and civil justice, as any other body of people in the world. These remarks extend to the body of the settlers. Individual instances of meanness of spirit, relaxed principles, and a blind and selfish obstinacy of intellect, there certainly are amongst us; and they give occasional activity to the laws established for the protection of property, and the security of individual rights. But these instances neither affect the general character of the colonists, nor require any modification of a description generally applicable to a decided majority of their number. And if this delineation of their character is perceived, as it must, be to disagree with that of former communications, it forms another gratifying proof, that no community is stationary in its moral habits, and that to a young christian society, there is ample scope for every species of laudable improvement.

THE AGRICULTURE OF THE COLONY,

Has ever been regarded and treated by the direction both in the United States and this country, as second to no other interest to be provided for; and it is matter of regret to myself, and must prove somewhat surprising to the Board, that the results have been equal neither to the importance of this branch of industry, in itself, nor to the exertions and hopes which have had its advancement for their object.

One hundred and twenty sections of plantation lands have been surveyed, and allotted to as many different families. But with the exception of the ten sections given to the settlers on the St:

Paul's river, all these lands are, as respects their soil and position, ill-adapted to cultivation. The richest lands of the cape, either degenerate into rocky, precipitous ledges, on the one hand, or are subject to inundations of salt or stagnant water, on the other. The dry and easily-wrought soil of the lands lying between the extremes, is light and sterile. The former demand, for reducing them to tillage, more labour and expense than can yet be afforded; the latter promise but poorly to repay the more moderate labour of bringing them under cultivation.—Few examples of decided success in cultivating the lands of the Colony in the improved methods of civilized countries, have yet been given. The best process of clearing and tillage is not certainly known; and the prospect of realizing, at an early period, an adequate return for the expense and labour of a fair experiment, is unhappily considered as doubtful. Most of the settlers are able to find the means of acquiring a subsistence for themselves and families, in other pursuits; and without abandoning altogether, the intention of cultivating their lands, too generally concur in deferring the labour to some future period.

The crops of the last year succeeded extremely well, until near the time of harvest; when the husbandman's plagues in tropical countries, assailed with scarcely less than Egyptian variety, and nearly devastated the hopes of the year. Deer, monkeys, porcupines, and a small species of the Gazelle,* resorted in troops to the plantations, and sometimes laid acres waste in a single morning. Several species of birds, and innumerable insects succeeded in myriads, and completed the ravages of their predecessors. Every kind of crop seems in this country to be liable to an enemy, provided by its nature, with appropriate powers of destruction. The means of protecting them, practised by the natives of the country, exact too much labour and pains of the cultivator, to be ever generally adopted in the Colony; and others employed in the West Indies, are yet but imperfectly understood.—The most active and formidable of these destroyers, can however, scarcely retain their accustomed haunts another season; and the cultivation of a larger number of contiguous farms, will tend to preserve them all from the depredations to which singly, and insulated by a dense forest, they have hitherto been exposed, from every species of mischievous animals.

* *Af. Fillintomboes.*

In my last communication to the board, I had the honor to submit the result of the surveys then lately made, of the waters and contiguous lands, of the Montserado river. A further examination has ascertained, that all the lands of Cape Montserado fit for cultivation, after reserving the site of the town, (which comprehends an extent of 2 miles in length by 12 in breadth) amount to no more than 550 acres.—The Cape Territory is completely insulated, by the water on three sides, and by a level tract of sea-sand on the fourth.—Measured from N. W. to S. E. its length is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; from N. E. to S. W. (directly across from the river to the ocean) its average width is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile.—Every section of the Cape Territory has been appropriated to settlers; of whom 38 families were obliged to be sent to the St. Paul's lands. Ten families have already received their allotment on that river; and the other twenty-eight (resident in Monrovia) will be placed as soon as the necessary surveys can be accomplished.

No lands fit for tillage, not actually appropriated, can now be found within four miles of Monrovia; such only excepted as have been left by special convention, in the hands of the natives, for their subsistence. This circumstance will be seen to require a considerable modification of the views embraced in the original plan of the settlement.

Farmers cannot bear a separation from the lands on the cultivation of which their subsistence depends; and all future emigrants of that avocation, must, of necessity, be appointed to the St. Paul's, and other sister settlements.

Mechanics and traders will naturally choose to settle in Monrovia. But are they to be provided with lands? and if so, where?—If on the St. Paul's, they will never cultivate them. I have thought it best to profit by the very faults of our settlers.—I am sorry in one view to say, that many of the original holders, will forfeit their sections next summer, for neglecting to make the requisite improvements in the term prescribed by the regulations of the Board.—These lands when resumed, I propose shall be subdivided into sections of two and three acres; and these sections to be severally re-allotted to such of the original grantees (indulging them with a second probation) as promise to cultivate them; and

* The Cape Territory comprehends about 1,600 acres: of which the reserves amount to 550 acres;—site of the town, 500 acres;—plantations, 550 acres.

to such mechanics, &c. as shall hereafter be permitted to settle in Monrovia. By this arrangement, 100 additional families can be accommodated with small plantations on the cape; and the whole of the territory be at once placed in a way of being speedily brought under cultivation—an event in every view most desirable.

I am happy in being able to assure the Board, from an actual survey of the St. Paul's Territory, that its actual fertility and other advantages, are fully equal to the opinion expressed of it in my communications of May and June last. Nothing but disasters of the most extraordinary nature, can prevent the settlement of sturdy farmers now happily seated on it, from making their way directly to respectability and abundance. The small *Treatise on Tropical Agriculture*, which I hope the Board has not forgotten to prepare, can hardly fail to be of particular service to our farmers; who, whether we consider the importance of their success to the prosperity of the Colony, or the temptations of immediate gain, which continually solicit them to engage in other pursuits, require every encouragement and aid that can be supplied them.

THE MEANS OF COLONISTS TO OBTAIN THE COMFORTS OF LIFE, AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY.

The future prospects of the settlers necessarily connects itself too closely with their actual state, easily to bear a separation. As the resources of the country come to be more unfolded; and the arts and improvements of civilized life to be more fully introduced, it cannot be doubted that whatever appertains to the comforts of their situation, will be possessed by settlers in far greater abundance than at the present time. But I can even now assure the Board, that except a very few of the emigrants the most independent and easy in their circumstances in America, they generally live in a style of neatness and comfort, approaching to elegance in many instances, unknown before their arrival in this country. An interesting family twelve months in Africa, destitute of the means of furnishing a comfortable table, is not known; and an *individual*, of whatever sex or age, without an ample provision of decent apparel, cannot, I believe, be found. I descend to these particular instances that the Board may deduce from them more general conclusions. Similar instances in proof of the easy circumstances of the people may be multiplied. *All* are successfully engaged in building their dwelling and other

houses; and at the same time improving their town premises—many their plantations—and all these labours, it is to be recollected, are supplementary to the general burden of finding for their families in the meantime, a reputable and comfortable maintenance. There is scarcely an active and industrious youth in the concluding stages of his minority, who has not provided himself with a part of his building materials, in anticipation of the change shortly to take place in his civil relations. Every family, and nearly every single adult person in the Colony, has the means of employing from one to four native labourers, at an expense of from 4 to 6 dollars the month. And several of the settlers when called upon in consequence of sudden emergencies of the public service, have made repeated advances of merchantable produce, to the amount of 300 to 600 dollars, each.

Even these instances of the general prosperity, I am sensible, could not be relied upon, had they left an outstanding balance of debts against the colonists. But I am happy to inform the Board, that their settlement is free of such obligations. The last credit allowed the people (originally of \$5,000, by a house in Boston, taken during my absence in 1824,) has, during the present week, been honorably discharged: and regulations of the most positive nature have been established to preserve every individual of the Colony from a similar imprudence hereafter. No credits can be allowed, on pain of forfeiture of the amount, without the written permission of the Agent.

Another proof as little equivocal as the preceding, of the prosperous state of the settlement, is, the very high prices of every kind of mechanical, and even of common labour, not capable of being performed by natives.

The wages paid to carpenters, masons, smiths, &c. (and those far from being accomplished in their respective trades,) is \$2 per diem—and to common labourers, from 75 cts. to \$1 25. Even at these prices, it is often impossible to obtain mechanics and labourers to carry on the most important buildings of the settlement—a public inconvenience which is wholly attributable to the general prosperity of individuals.

The Board will perhaps, with myself, regard with some distrust, these flattering testimonies of affluence, when informed that it has its source beyond the limits of the Colony.

The natives of the country, but particularly of the interior,

notwithstanding their habitual indolence, produce, after supplying their own wants, a considerable surplus of the great staple of this part of Western Africa—rice. The moderate rate at which this grain is purchased by such as deal directly with the growers; and the various uses of which it is susceptible in the domestic economy, easily place the means of supplying the first necessities of nature in the reach of every one. Rice, moreover, always commands a ready sale with transient trading vessels or coasters; and forms an useful object of exchange for other provisions and necessities, between individuals of the Colony.

To this succeeds as next in importance, the Camwood of the country; of which several hundred tons every year pass through the hands of the settlers;* and serve to introduce, in return, the provisions and groceries of America; and the dry goods and wares both of Europe and America, which, from the necessary dependence of the members of every society on each other, come soon to be distributed, for the common advantage of all.

The Ivory of Liberia is less abundant, and less valuable, than that of several other districts of Western Africa. It, however, forms a valuable article of barter and export, to the settlement; and the amount annually bought and sold, falls between 5 and 8 thousand dollars.

The entire trade of the Colony, altho' attended with some evils, by taking the place of other branches of industry, of more permanent and certain utility, has been productive of many present advantages. The late regulation to which it has been subjected, particularly that of establishing factories; and requiring all the barter trade of the Colony to be carried on through them, on penalty of the forfeiture of goods otherwise employed in trade, promise, both to render the operation of converting merchandise into produce, more profitable than hitherto, to individuals, and less prejudicial to every other branch of industry.

The settlement continues to receive considerable supplies of live stock, from the country; and is beginning to breed several of the domestic animals with success. But the insecurity of this sort of property in a settlement of recent formation—the constant

* The "Union," which conveys this letter, has taken in 100 tons of this wood, chiefly at the Colony.

resort of adroit and thievish natives, has tended to discourage, and divert from this object, the attention formerly bestowed upon it.

Our fish are large, abundant, and excellent. A single seine supplies Monrovia, by means of a few drafts in the mornings, with about a thousand pounds of fish, weekly.

It is ardently to be wished, and may be rationally expected, that agriculture will, at no very distant period, succeed to the too exclusively cultivated *trade*, of the Colony. Its pre-eminent natural advantages for adopting with success, this surest of all the means of plenty and independence, indeed, preclude all doubt, as to its ultimate ascendancy over every other pursuit. The great body of the lands of the interior are of a superior richness. Take the most productive districts in the United States, between Boston and Charleston; and they will rank far behind every part of the territory of Liberia, dry enough for tillage; except the rocky summits of Montserado. Manure is much more easily made, and more abundantly obtained, than in temperate or insulated countries. The few of the colonists who have given their attention to the culture of rice, have, with half the labour that a wheat-crop requires, reared (and, but for vermin, would have harvested) on a given quantity of land, *more than double* the ordinary produce of that grain.

THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER WORKS OF CONSTRUCTION,

Carried on in the Colony at the public expense, since my last detailed advices of June last, have been chiefly those of individuals. The re-construction of fort Stockton, and the government-house of the *St. Paul's settlement*, are nearly completed; and some progress made in the erection of a new range of houses at Thompson-town.

Fort Stockton, after the labour of a twelve-month, is nearly rebuilt in a style of beauty, strength and solidity, to which it could never have been brought without the changes introduced in the original plan of the work, and the extensive demolition, which it has undergone. The platform consists of strong mason-work covered with cement. The ascent is by a stone stair-case. The interior consists of a long gallery, of which the walls are double, on each side; and form, with the earth and gravel in the intervening space, a perfectly impenetrable terrace-work, of 12 feet in thickness. To

this gallery there is a single entrance by means of a grated passage from the platform : and the whole perfectly ventilated by means of strong gratings in a wall 7 feet thick, of solid mason-work. The exterior of the whole work is well painted and white-washed ; and may be seen among the first objects which present themselves to strangers, at the distance of from 20 to 30 miles from the cape.

The new agency-house is so far completed, that it may be rendered habitable in a very short time, whenever it shall become necessary to enlarge our accommodations for any of the public servants of the Colony, or agency. But it is desirable to finish it as it has been begun, *with American materials* ; of which the supply on hand has been for some time past, consumed, on that and other buildings. The present government house being entirely commodious, and other objects of expense and improvement in the Colony continually pressing their most urgent claims on my attention, I have hitherto suffered the progress of that building to give way to every other ; but intend to have it completed before the return of the next rainy season.

The exterior view of the government house now nearly finished, on the St. Pauls, is enclosed. It is intended to establish a telegraphic communication between the two settlements, by means of signals displayed from the cupola of that building, and the flag-staff of fort Stockton. The direct distance is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

A small part only of the *Receptacle*, of which the plan and utility were explained in my letter of June last, has yet been finished. But, of the public buildings projected for the ensuing season, it stands next in course ; and I trust will be in readiness to receive 80 or 90 emigrants, as early as the 1st of April, and at least, one month before the commencement of the bad season.

The settlers, most of whom are extensively engaged in building, have suffered severe disappointments in the failure of no less than three contracts made the year past, with American shippers, in different parts of the United States, for lumber, paints, and nails. Death and unforeseen accidents are indeed supposed to have caused two instances of this failure ; but it is certainly jeopardizing the interests of a Colony of the rising importance of this, in a very undue degree, to subject it in future, to disappointments of this nature ; which, under existing circumstances, it is liable at any time to suffer from the avarice or caprice of some two or three mercan-

tile houses in America ; on whose assurances it has unfortunately depended for the most necessary supplies. The trade and resources of the Colony authorize the employment of shipping of its own : and experience seems to have proved that any other dependence is precarious and absurd. The intelligence and enterprise of a sufficient number of the people are, I trust, equal to the undertaking ; and the year now commencing, it is hoped, will see so desirable an appendage of the settlement secured to it.

The first successful essay in the construction of small vessels, has been made the past year. I have built, and put upon the rice trade, between our factories to the leeward, and Cape Montserado, a schooner of ten tons burthen, adapted to the passage of the bars of all the navigable rivers of the coast.* The sailing qualities of this vessel are so superior, that before the wind, it is believed, few or none of the numerous pirates of the coast, can overtake her. She makes a trip, freighted both ways, in ten days ; and commonly carries and brings merchandise and produce, to the amount of from 4 to 8 hundred dollars each trip. Another craft of equal tonnage, but of very indifferent materials, has been built by one of the Colonists. The model of the St. Pauls' (the public boat) was furnished by myself ; but she was constructed under the superintendence of J. Blake, who has thus entitled himself to the character of an useful and ingenious mechanic.

The batteaux and boats of some burden fit for the coasting service, have multiplied during the year, from 4 to 14 ; besides a flotilla of small river-craft, rendered indispensable by our peninsular situation, the intercourse between our different establishments, and the present dependent state of the Colony upon the trade carried on by numerous inlets, with the interior.

Two small churches have been reared up since the month of August, under circumstances of the most gratifying nature :— which will be more fully detailed in another part of this communication.

A labour of somewhat doubtful success, has been voluntarily undertaken, and hitherto carried on with very commendable zeal, by the settlers. It is no less than an attempt to convey the waters of the Montserado to the ocean, by means of a navigable canal—

* On the day following the launch of this vessel, 78 persons, chiefly females, were carried in it, over Montserado bar, in an excursion of pleasure, with perfect safety. Three seas rolled over, but could not sink her.

in the expectation, 1st, of obtaining a channel of sufficient depth to admit the entrance into the river of vessels of burden:—and 2dly, to avoid the inconveniences and dangers of a bar at the river's mouth. Altho' I am willing to encourage the experiment, I have no confidence in its final success. The action of the sea on the one hand, and of the powerful current of a large river, on the other—both forces directed upon a bank of moveable sand—must mock any little labours of the spade at present, in the power of this settlement to oppose to so resistless an agency.

On a general review of the permanent improvements of the past year, particularly of the latter half of it, I have every reason to be satisfied, that, relatively to the means employed, the utmost that could be proposed, has been accomplished.

THE MEANS OF LITERARY AND OTHER KINDS OF MENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

The importance of schools instituted on an improved and liberal plan, and conducted with spirit, by persons of superior qualifications, viewed in connexion with the hopes and objects of this Colony, has, I persuade myself, from the first, been duly appreciated by the Board. But nothing on this subject commensurate with the original design, has been yet done. For founding and carrying on such institutions, both the means, and conductors must, for the present, come from the United States.—As much, perhaps, has been effected towards the maintenance of good schools in the Colony, (certainly it has been attempted,) as the means and instruments attainable have allowed. But I am, and might remain, less satisfied with what has been accomplished in this respect, than with the attention given to any other leading interest of the Colony. No less than FIVE schools for different descriptions of learners, exclusive of the Sunday Schools, have been supported during the year, and still continue in operation.—The youths and children of the Colony discover for their age, unequivocal proofs of a good degree of mental accomplishment. The contrast between children several years in the enjoyment of the advantages of the Colony, and most others of the same age, arriving from the United States, is striking—and would leave an entire stranger at no loss to distinguish the one from the other. Should emigration, but for a very few months, cease to throw the little ignorants into the Colony, from abroad, the phenomenon of a child of five years, unable to read, it is believed, would not exist among us.—But the

pleasing hopes which this state of things tend to generate, in regard to the future population of the Colony, are damped and embittered, by the certainty, that the opening flowers of intellect are never to ripen under any means of instruction, at present enjoyed in the settlement. The deserving individuals engaged in the different departments of instruction, have advanced a considerable number of our youths to a point of improvement, beyond which, neither teacher or pupil have the means of proceeding. And is this moderate measure of mental culture to remain, forever, the standard of intellect in the Colony?—are minds, as capable of rising along the higher gradations on the scale of improvement, as those of any other people on earth, to be doomed, in perpetuity, to an involuntary detention on the very threshold of knowledge? To this inquiry, the munificence of the American public, to which I desire respectfully to address it,—and the disinterested zeal of a few accomplished and sensible persons, of both sexes, can alone furnish a favourable reply. But where are the youthful philanthropists of my country?—in what have those loud professions of zeal in the great cause of human happiness, of civilization, and freedom, which I once heard from a thousand mouths, resulted? To say nothing of that Christian charity, which, when I left the United States, appeared to pour floods of compassionate tears over the moral abasement of the African race: Are we to expect in vain from the thousand seminaries and fountains of knowledge in that favoured country, a single young man or woman of sufficient enterprise and generosity, to conduct the sacred stream to this Colony? A four years' residence on this distant coast, has rendered me almost a stranger to the present youth of America. But to the immortal honour of a large portion of my own particular associates in the walks of literature, I mention it, that *THEY* are, at this moment, scattering the rudiments of civilization and Christianity over the four quarters of the globe. Egypt, Syria, Ceylon, Burmah, Coromandel, the wilds of Arkansas, and the Islands of the Pacific, are sharing their generous labours; and are hereafter to vie with each other in the monuments by which they will perpetuate to posterity their cherished memory.—We want in Africa, neither visionaries, ostentatious pretenders to science or goodness, nor the cast-off members of any of the liberal professions in America, who encumber the surface of the society they float on. They would soon become as ridiculous and useless, as miserable in this coun-

try. But a few young persons of modest merit—disinterested, indefatigable, disposed to solitude—of polished manners, and extensive acquirements, would in vain inquire for a situation of greater, present, or prospective usefulness. And *because* useful, such individuals would be happy. But the youthful mind incapable of being fired at the idea of so noble a sphere of useful exertion as the moral wants of this Colony, at the present moment, present, *deserves*, I could almost say—(but Heaven avert it,) to undergo a long existence of inaction, and effeminacy, in some congenial circle of its choice—till death shall do the world a service, by sweeping it of so unworthy an incumbrance.

THE DEFENSIVE FORCE OF THE COLONY.

The organization of all the militia, into two corps, as announced in my letter of June, has since, been carried into complete effect. Both are appropriately uniformed; and the oldest highly advanced in the practical science, and discipline of regular troops.

The artillery corps numbers about 50 men; the infantry, 40. Detachments from both have been several times called into actual service within a few months: and the fruits of their good and soldierlike conduct, which in every instance has proved entirely successful, are destined to last, and perpetuate the recollection of their services, as long as this Colony remains. The Board will learn from the accompanying copies of letters to the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, that my allusion is to the destruction of *three* slave factories, in Liberia bay, and the liberation of 116 slaves; who are now blessed with freedom and abundance, in the bosom of this Colony.

The establishment has 15 large carriage, and three small pivot guns; most of them newly invented, and all fit for service. I have contrived a species of carriage involving a complication of the principles of the *sea-coast*, *field* and *garrison* carriages, but exactly resembling neither; which is found more perfectly adapted to the service of the Colony, than any other.

A strong double battery, to be mounted with 4 of our best guns, is laid out at two different elevations of the height of Thompson-town; and when completed, will afford entire protection to vessels at anchor in our roads—a point of the first importance; as our waters are every month infested with pirates of abandoned character.

THE RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF THE COLONISTS.

The information comprised under this head, relates, 1st, *To such public and ostensible testimonies of religious character as are afforded by the religious professions, institutions and observances of the people; and 2dly, To the actual influence of religious principles on the character of individuals.*

From the first class of these testimonies the judgment of the second, must in part, be formed.—and both are perhaps too flattering to the hopes of the pious friends of the Colony in America, to be admitted by many without hesitation.

Happily, a large proportion of the settlers were, previous to their emigration, the members of religious connexions in America. A change of circumstances, the greatest almost, that could arrive, has severely tried the sincerity of their profession; and, as was to be anticipated, has proved that a few were little worthy of the character they had assumed. But most have sustained the trial with honor to themselves, and to the holy religion of their adoption. They are now becoming settled in their circumstances, and fixed and regular in their religious habits and duties. The true gold has gained a purer lustre in the furnace through which it has passed. The pair which this class of settlers have bestowed on their own religious improvement, have both qualified and stimulated them, to advance the spiritual interest of others. Through a Divine blessing, their example and exertions have been successful. Their ranks have every year been replenishing. More than 50 persons, embracing nearly the whole young adult population—have, in the 15 months past, become the serious and devout professors of christianity.

It is almost unnecessary to add, that the Sabbath is universally observed with all the outward marks of religious decorum—that domestic worship is common—that Sunday schools, both for native and settlers' children, are zealously sustained, numerous attended, and productive of the happiest fruits—that there is a general attendance of all classes, on the public, and occasional worship of God—and that charitable and pious associations, chiefly for the religious tuition and bringing up of native children, are on foot, and appear to have been undertaken in that spirit of intelligent zeal which ensures both perseverance and success.

During the latter half of the past year, two commodious and beautiful chapels, each sufficient to contain several hundred wor-

shippers, have been erected, and consecrated to the christians' God. The well adjusted, and plainly ornamented spire of one of these, is among the first objects which occurs to the observer on approaching the town, from the road-stead. These little churches stand on the confines of a once gloomy forest, consecrated to the demon-worship of the natives: and while they are beheld by christians as new and joyful landmarks of the widening empire of the son of God, are regarded by the neighbouring tribes as monuments of the incipient overthrow of their superstitions, and as prophetic beacons of its hastening dissolution. These edifices were erected wholly by the personal services and voluntary contributions of their respective parishioners:—and altho' nearly finished and fitted up in a style of neat and simple ornament, equal to that of most reputable churches in America, have devolved upon the congregation no debt, either for materials or labour. The encouragement in various ways afforded by the intelligent females of the settlement, to this creditable and pious labour, has contributed greatly to its successful and early accomplishment.

A divine Providence prepares and employs the instruments of his own work. This remark is verified in a higher degree by the peculiar character of the talents engaged in the preaching of the Gospel, and administration of the offices of religion amongst us, than it is necessary, or quite proper for me to state. The Board may, however, rely with confidence, that the pure doctrines and precepts of christianity are here taught us, both from the desk, and by the examples of its ministers. In a community having seven licensed preachers, and others who occasionally officiate in a subordinate sphere of activity, it is not to be expected that a general commendation shall be equally applicable to all; or that in the matter or manner of conducting the public offices of religion, there should not be some defects and abuses, which every serious and enlightened christian must contemplate with sorrow. But these exceptions, I believe to be fewer and of less moment, than the Board may, not without reason, have been led to apprehend. An enlightening and reforming spirit is evidently operating upon the minds, and gradually modelling after the great example of all moral perfection, the characters, both of our priests and people. Party spirit seldom makes its appearance; and in its place, a holier and sublimer emulation—an ambition of excelling in the fear and

knowledge of God, has succeeded; and in many, and multiplying instances, “produces the peaceable fruits of righteousness.”

Under the second division of the article of information, already in part anticipated, it is a circumstance to *me*, and I trust will prove to the Society, more substantially satisfactory than any others I have to communicate: that their Colony is in deed and reality a christian community. The Holy Author of our religion and salvation, has made the hearts of a large proportion of these people, the temples of the Divine Spirit. The faith of the everlasting gospel, with an evidence and strength which nothing short of the power of the Almighty can produce or sustain, has become the animating spring of action, the daily rule of life, the source of immortal hope and ineffible enjoyment, to a large proportion of your Colonists. God is known in his true character—his worship is celebrated in its purity—the doctrines of salvation are received in their genuine simplicity, by very many. Occurrences of a favourable or depressing aspect are regarded as dispensations of the Almighty, and followed with correspondent feelings of gratitude or humiliation. Tears of affectionate joy or sorrow are often seen to flow in the house of God, from hearts silently melting under the searching influence of his word.—I have seen the proudest and profanest foreigners that ever visited the Colony, trembling with amazement and conviction, almost literally in the descriptive phraseology of St. Paul, “Find the secrets of their hearts made manifest, and falling down upon their faces, worship God, and report that God is in the midst” of this people “of a truth.”

These facts I have judged it my duty to state, to the praise of that God to whom we are entirely indebted for so precious a testimony of his favour,—and for the information of thousands in the United States, to whose prayers and pious attentions we may, under the Most High, refer it.—I am not insensible of the delicacy and responsibility attending the publication of a statement of this nature; and of the great danger a more cautious pen than mine might incur, of communicating on it, either too little or too much. But as the grand secret of the improving circumstances of this Colony,—of the respect it commands without, and of the happiness, order, and industry which reigns within it, is wrapped up in the controlling influence of religion on the temper and habits of the people, I should greatly wrong the cause of truth, by suppressing, or too lightly passing by, a topic of such leading importance.

The precious hopes of an immortality of vigorous and beatific existence in the presence of God and the Redeemer, are no inefficient principles of action and of happiness in the human mind, even in the midst of this mixed and tumultuous life: and they have attended and sustained a large number whom providence has taken from us, till they passed rejoicing, the limits of mortality, and left us in tears. Many more are now waiting, full of the same "glorious hopes," for the final summons of their Heavenly Master.—And shall it ever be, that a torrent of infidelity, heresy, or irreligion, shall, in judgment for our ingratitude, find its way from the dark caverns of hell to this consecrated retreat of the humble worshippers of God; and convert to a moral waste, a young plantation which He condescends himself to water and to keep!

THE MORALS OF THE COLONISTS,

Like those of all other people, so naturally take their character from the nature and influence of their religion, that in order to appreciate the first, it is only necessary to form a just estimate of the last.—The moral character of the Colonists is, generally, good. There is a powerful preponderance of example and of influence on the side of moral virtue; and every species of open vice is, by the general frown, either put out of countenance or driven out of sight. Occasional instances of drunkenness, licentiousness, and fraud, there certainly are; but these instances are either so unfrequent in themselves, or so cautiously concealed from public view, as very seldom to come to light.—In either case, a conclusion is authorized favourable to the general tone of moral feeling, and the correctness of the general practice.

The promptness with which occasional offenders against the laws for the conservation of the public peace, are brought to justice; and the sentiment of generous indignation which their offences never fail to awaken, are among the surest criteria of a sound and healthy state of the public morals, which can be witnessed in any community. Except for military offences, not a single individual of the Colonists has suffered imprisonment since the month of February, 1824; a period of 22 months. The vice of common swearing is, I am happy to inform the Board, unknown in the Colony. In such odium and abhorrence is the practice held, that nothing but the momentary intoxication of ungovernable passion, can extort from those formerly most enslaved to the habit, expressions once as natural as the breath they respired. It is to be hoped,

that the numerous children of the Colony, and more than 60 native boys attached to the different families, will grow up untainted with this offensive immorality; and show at least *one* example of a society in which it shall be as unfashionable as it is sinful, to violate without a pretext, one of the most express of the commands of God.

But there are some blemishes on the moral character of individuals, for which the reputation of the Colony is obliged to suffer in the estimation of the world; but which, I am convinced, every month is contributing to remove; which it will, in a very short time, be unjust to make the ground of a general reproach to the settlement.

The moral force of a contract is by too many persons quite too imperfectly felt, and understood. There *has* been much less attention to punctuality in the discharge of debts, and in the fulfilment of promises; and much less fidelity shown in the execution of trusts voluntarily assumed, than the laws of equity, and the intercourse of society, exact of its members.—Idleness has been the cause of much poverty and distress, to many; but has happily, in most cases, wrought its own cure, in the punishment which never fails to follow it.

Human nature demands, and *will exact*, some form of recreation of all who are clothed with it. Force it from such diversions as are innocent and improving, and we drive it in quest of gratification, to such as are neither.—Acting from this persuasion, I have encouraged, and mingled with the Colonists, in the cheerful celebration of our religious, civil, and social festivals;—have patronized a moderate and appropriate pomp, on military, and other public occasions;—I have preserved to our courts of justice, the quaint, but venerable forms of antiquity; and, generally, keeping at a proper remove from levity and excess, the point I have laboured to compass, has been to throw an air of cheerfulness, and gaiety if possible, over the severest and most serious duties of life. The happy effects of this cheap expedient are, every day becoming more apparent; and should an opposite policy be adopted by any future agent, from mistaken views of religious obligation, from a morbid temperament of character, or from supercilious weakness, it is impossible not to predict the very worst effects on the moral character of the people.

ACCESSIONS OF TERRITORY—AND NEW ESTABLISHMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE COLONY.

The new purchase of territory on the St. Pauls', concluded in May last, of which ample advices were transmitted in June, has been subsequently confirmed by every testimony of sincerity in the power of the native authorities to afford. The first surveys and allotment of lands on that territory, have been accomplished. Ten families have proceeded to occupy it, who are now employed in clearing their farms, and building. The government house, connected with which is a ware-house for the settlement, will be shut in, and ready for use, the latter part of January. A wharf has been finished, and the river-street opened, in front of all the appropriated lands.

For the convenience and proper government of this settlement, it has been thought advisable to appoint several civil and other officers ; and frame a simple code of provisional regulations. These regulations are forwarded with the other documents, &c. enclosed, relating to this settlement ; which the Board will perceive to be in perfect accordance with the laws of the Colony, and intended to unite perfectly, the new, with its elder sister establishment at the Cape. As soon as the government house shall be sufficiently advanced, it is my intention to pass as large a part of my time on the St. Paul's, as the duties I owe to the Colony at large, will allow. My confidence in the rapid growth of this settlement is confirmed by every event hitherto connected with its formation. Its natural situation combines every desirable advantage of soil, water, timber, and salubrity : and its commencement has been marked by the favouring circumstances of tranquillity with the native tribes—a seasoned company of laborious settlers—and a settled and approved system of civil regulations.

The new establishment of Thompsonstown being exclusively devoted to the residence and instruction of liberated Africans, falls more properly under the notice of the report which, as the U. S. agent for those people, I have the honor this day, to make to the Department of the Navy. The buildings of that establishment are slowly progressive ; and the lands contiguous in a way of being brought, at an early period, under cultivation. Large plantations are now in preparation, on the northern side of the Cape—which promise, in the ensuing season, to divest it of a large portion of the savage forest, which at present covers it.

The temporary accommodation of the 116 liberated Africans, lately added to the agency, has led to the formation of a new village, about equidistant from the settlements of Thompsonstown, and Monrovia. It is now, being built by the Africans themselves, in their own style: and will consist of about 20 dwellings—Of these people, about 40 boys and girls under 14 years, have been distributed among the settlers, with whose families they are, in effect, incorporated: and if their welfare and improvement can be sufficiently assured by this disposition of them, it will continue. These children enjoy the advantages of the school for the instruction of the native children of the settlement.

I had the honor in my last, of June, to advise the Board of a proposition made by King Freeman of Young Sesters, to lease to the Colony a portion of his territory situated on both sides of the river, of that name. This cession was accordingly carried into effect, by a deed (inclosed) of the 27th of October, 1825. A factory for the purchase of rice, as the best means of commencing the occupation of this territory went into operation upon it, soon after.

A mischievous individual, (since punished and with his family expelled the country,) caused the destruction of the store-house, in November. But it was immediately rebuilt without any expense on our part, and the entire loss made good by King Freeman. Owing to the jealousies of his neighbours, this sensible headman has relinquished for the present, his claim on the specified lease-rent—with a mutual understanding, that no considerable number of American settlers are to be sent to take possession of the country, until the experience of a few months shall have satisfied his less discerning neighbours of the advantages to be derived from a settlement of civilized people. In the mean time, it will be seen from the inclosed documents, relating to this business, that there is a mutual intention and wish that schools should be founded—the establishment enlarged—and the way prepared as effectually and speedily as possible, for commencing on the river Sesters, one of the settlements of the Colony.

King Freeman, according to the term of the deed, has furnished our factor resident at the Sesters, with a numerous company of labourers, who, under his direction, are preparing a large rice plantation, on our account. Large quantities of rice are purchasing for the United States' agency; and it is intended never to relinquish the hold so providentially obtained on this district of the

coast, even should the motives resulting from its immediate advantages to the Colony cease to be so great as at the present time.

I have the honour to inclose an ample abstract, and copies of all the documents relating to these transactions—*particularly*, the original deed which the Board will of course direct to be filed for preservation.

It affords me the highest satisfaction to be able to inform the Board, that their territorial claims are in a fair train of being soon extended likewise, to the important district of Grand Bassa.

We have for several years had in that populous and valuable country, a strong and increasing interest; and so late as the last month, were on the point of concluding with the king and headmen, a large purchase of lands, in the heart of their country. But the small party, in doubt, rendered it expedient not to press the transaction to a premature conclusion, but to accept, for the present, of a cession which all were united in making us. This cession gives us the perpetual use and occupation of an indefinite extent of country on the South Branch of the St. John's river, without any stipulated rent; and will eventually, as intended by the king and most of his chiefs, lead to the formation of a settlement, and the permanent occupation of the country.

We have accordingly, built a commodious factory on the South Branch of the St. John's river, three miles from its mouth; at which one of our most worthy and respectable people, with a part of his family, constantly resides. No equitable means in my power, will be omitted to secure this invaluable position permanently to the Colony. The *St. Paul's schooner*, of ten tons, plies once a fortnight between the Cape and the Sesters, touching always, going and returning, at the St. John's. The factor of Bassa, has it also in his instructions to clear and plant a large farm, the approaching season; for which purpose king John has agreed to furnish the requisite labourers.

The Board will, with myself, be sensible of the extremely cautious policy necessary to be observed in this extension of our limits, along more than 100 miles of the sea-coast, towards the different tribes which they are beginning to embrace. I have omitted no pains to secure, by means of treaties, legations, small presents, and an uniform course of justice and kindness, sustained by a respectable display of military force, the confidence and good faith of the natives. The helping hand of divine Providence, has mani-

festly attended and given success to our otherwise idle exertions. And in the observance of a similar conduct, succeeded by the same invisible but most effectual agency, are all our future hopes placed. One stroke of a bungling, or headlong policy, on our part, I am certain might convert to disappointment, confusion, and war, a state of things so prosperous; and prospects so replete with promise. These tender elements of the future strength of the Colony, are not to be forced by too much working, on the one hand, to an unnatural maturity—nor, will they on the other coalesce, and arrive at any important results without incessant and judicious care.

The money expended on these various objects has necessarily been considerable: but, in comparison with the expense which similar objects in this country cost European governments, it will be found not merely moderate, but trifling. Less than has been effected towards the extension of our limits, I could not attempt: and I am certain that where the direction of every other establishment on the coast, except the Portuguese, would regard itself not only authorized, but *obliged*, to pay away thousands—I have in countless instances, spent not a *dollar*. But that species of economy which sacrifices to itself any object essential to the success of this undertaking, I am as little able to practice as the Board is to approve.

The expenses attending each of our new establishments abroad, from the beginning to this date, are drawn out in separate statements, and inclosed.

RELATIONS OF THE COLONY WITH THE KROOMEN.

Our late unhappy differences with the Kroomen, have, since the 30th of June last, been amicably, and I believe definitively settled. The documents relating to the whole of this unfortunate affair, will be found inclosed.

The blood that has flown on this occasion, has been the cause of greater pain to me, than the torrents shed in our hostilities of 1822; because the former, differently from the latter, has left the appearance of a stain on the character of the Colony. It may be necessary to explain the grounds on which the present of 100 bars, stipulated to be given to the Kroo nation, in the arrangement of June 30th, was made. It certainly was given under such circumstances as to preclude the suspicion of its being extorted by the dread of their power.

The Kroomen, as watermen, pilots, and labourers to all vessels and establishments on the coast, are invaluable serviceable. They have preserved many vessels in distress, from destruction; and saved, by performing their drudgery, the lives of many thousands of seamen. The service rendered to the Colony, by this race of men in loading and discharging vessels, in rescuing the property, and saving the lives of settlers, exposed by accidents attending the passage of the bar, and in various other emergencies, is inestimable, and but poorly acknowledged in the wages customarily allowed them. On all these grounds, I thought it a matter not only of the soundest expediency, but in part, of justice, to secure their good will, and fidelity in future, by the grant referred to, in the final adjustment of our differences.

It cannot have escaped the observation of the Board, that, in this country, the *accepting* of a present is always considered as an acknowledgment of *obligation*, and often of inferiority: and conversely, the *giving* of a present, is often regarded as an assertion of the prerogatives of a superior. It is from the light in which a transaction of this nature is known to be regarded in most parts of this continent, that the commercial states of Europe have given into the usage of paying a stipulated annuity to the Barbary powers, as the condition of their friendship, without being sensible of submitting to an indignity. But, in apologizing for a discussion somewhat too dry and protracted, of the expediency of giving presents to the natives of this country, I beg leave, only to add, that the Colony is on the very best terms at present, with the Kroo people. Several are employed in navigating the boats of the Colony, and the recollection of past disagreements is apparently buried.

THE RELATIONS OF THE COLONY WITH THE NEIGHBOURING TRIBES.

The first effects of the Colony in civilizing and improving the condition of the natives of Africa, are beginning to be realized.

The policy which I have invariably pursued in all the intercourse of the Colony with them, is that of benevolence, humanity and justice. They have been treated as men and brethren of a common family. We have practically taught them in the spirit of the parent institution, that one end of our settlement in their country, is to *do them good*. We have adopted 60 of their chil-

dren; and brought them forward as children of the Colony—and shown a tender concern for their happiness and a sacred regard to their rights, even when possessed of a dictatorial power over both. In this conduct, a new and surprising view of the character of civilized man, has been presented to them. They have, for the first time, witnessed the effects of principles superior to the hopes of mercenary advantage, in this conduct of the settlers, and for the first time, appear to be apprised of the fact, that among civilized people, there is a good, as well as a bad class. They have learnt, from this Colony, what no other foreigners have cared to teach them—their immortality,—their accountability to the God who made them, and the destruction which certainly awaits at last, the unrestrained indulgence of their lusts and vices. They have for the first time learnt, and still can scarcely believe, that thousands of strangers in another hemisphere, are cordially interested in the advancement of their happiness. Our influence over them is unbounded—it is increasing—it is more extensive than I dare, at this early period, risk my character for veracity, by asserting. But I beg leave to refer at least, to facts already communicated—to our military expeditions, into the heart of their country, uninterrupted,—to our purchase of the St. Paul's—admission into Grand Bassa, and acquisition of the Sesters. On several occasions of alarm from the interior, the whole population of the country has been ready to throw itself into our arms for protection. No man of the least consideration in the country, will desist from his importunities, till at least one of his sons is fixed in some settlers' family. Thieves and other malefactors have, in too many instances to be recited, been voluntarily arrested by their own countrymen, and delivered up to the Colony for punishment. We have their confidence, and their friendship—and those built on the fullest conviction that we are incapable of betraying the one, or violating the other.

One of the most obvious effects of this Colony, has already been to check, in this part of Africa, the prevalence of the slave-trade. The promptness and severity with which our arms have, in every instance, avenged the insults and injuries offered by slave ships and factories to the Colony, have, I may confidently say, banished it forever from this district of the coast. Between Cape Mount and Trade Town, comprehending a line of 140 miles, not a slaver dares to attempt his guilty traffic. Our influence with the natives

of this section of the coast is known to be so great as to expose to certain miscarriage, any transaction entered into with them, for slaves. But there is a moral feeling at work in the minds of most of our neighbours, contracted doubtless, by means of their intercourse with the Colony, which represents to them the dark business in a new aspect of repulsiveness and absurdity. Most are convinced that it is indeed a *bad business*,—and are apparently sincere in their determination to drop it forever, unless compelled by their wants to adventure a few occasional speculations. To expect from them an operative feeling of the *immorality* of this trade, would be as unreasonable as to expect from a deaf man, a learned discourse on the philosophy of concords. Of the moral virtues, the circle of their ideas does not admit any of the original principles. But, minds as ignorant as theirs, cannot be unaffected to see foreigners more concerned for the welfare of Africans, than Africans for each other. Perhaps, it is yet to be seen, that the most barbarous of practices may be effectually undermined, by an influence as silent and unpretending as the persuasive power of Christian example.

To the lasting honour of the American Colonization Society, it has founded a new empire on this continent, of which the basis is Christianity, intelligence, and rational liberty;—has conducted it happily through the perilous stages of its inception and early growth;—has seen its members, in the full possession of the means of acquiring the comforts of life, and sustaining against any anticipated opposition, the stand to which they are advanced. The Society has demonstrated experimentally to the world, the soundness of the views with which they appeared before it in 1817—18, without funds, patronage, or a precedent in the annals of the human race. And in having achieved so much, it has, in my opinion, compassed the special design of its institution; and must from this period, resign up the great work of colonization, considered as an object of national benefit, to the national patronage.

Respectfully, gentlemen, I have the honour
to remain, with the most perfect esteem,
Your ob'dt serv't,

J. ASHMUN.

THE MANAGERS of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, are now, through the good Providence of God, justified in addressing the public, not with the diffidence of mere experimentalists, but with the confidence of successful labourers, in a cause unspeakably interesting to our own country, and fraught with imperishable blessings for another. They announce with satisfaction, equalled only by their gratitude, that the Colony at Liberia exhibits an importance and promise exceeding the predictions of its most enthusiastic friends; that it opens before every freeman of colour a field for honourable enterprize, for political privileges, and for social enjoyment; that it offers to the American statesman the only method, perhaps, of securing permanent prosperity to our country; and to the christian, of imparting to the population of Africa his perfect and sublime religion. Impelled by a deep sense of duty, and animated by the encouragement of Heaven, the Board beg leave to invite their countrymen, universally, to the energetic prosecution of this magnanimous work. It merits, they believe, the approbation of all, and demands the patronage of the nation. Such is now the extent of the operations of this Society, and such the magnitude of its interests, that the same annual amount of funds heretofore received, will in future prove inadequate to the management of the one, or the security of the other. But as the practicableness of its plans has been demonstrated, as their utility appears certain, as their necessity is daily becoming more imperious, the Board trust that hesitation will yield to confidence, and languid approvers come forth to aid the cause with resolute purposes and generous hearts. Nor can the Managers doubt that when age shall contribute its counsel, and youth its vigour; when female benevolence shall be excited, and the impressive devotions and eloquence of the ministry be enlisted for its success, an illustrious triumph will attend this cause—a triumph, honourable to our citizens, felicitous to Africa, and glorious to God. To accomplish such a union of sentiment and action, the Board appeal to the churches in the United States, and most respectfully, yet earnestly, invite their co-operation. May they be allowed to suggest to the ministers and rulers of these churches, that no possible measure occurs to them, as more desirable, than a religious celebration of the anniversary of our Independence, when the views and hopes of this Institution might most appropriately be displayed before the American people, and their donations solicited to give them fulfilment. Should celebrations of a different character prevent, in many places, such a religious service, it might be performed perhaps, with no less advantage, on the Sunday immediately preceding or succeeding that day. From the charities of this occasion was a large proportion of the funds of the Society derived the last year, though the whole amount was inconsiderable, compared with that which cannot fail to be realized by the unanimous adoption of the measure. *The Board appeal with confidence to the Rev. Clergy. The several Ecclesiastical Bodies will, they hope; make this plan their own, and send it forth to the churches under the seal of their unqualified approbation.*

By order of the Board.

R. R. GURLEY, *Resident Agent.*

✍ Editors friendly to the objects of the American Colonization Society, are very respectfully invited to insert the above in their papers.

P. S. For the sake of presenting to our subscribers Mr. Ashmun's most able and interesting letter, we postpone many communications of much importance, which, with other statements from the pen of the Colonial Agent, may be expected next month.